

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMCopy - No Sig.  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Rush County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Rush County Courthouse

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rushville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Rush

CODE

139

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Rush County

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Rush County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Rushville

STATE

Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In the late 1880's a predominating architectural style was a Romanesque mode created and used most effectively by Henry Hobson Richardson. His influence can be seen throughout the country. The Rush County Courthouse, constructed in 1896, is a well preserved example of this style.

The 3 1/2 story structure is sheathed in rock faced stone although the structure is supported by a heavy steel frame, an early use of this material. The irregularly shaped building is highlighted by a square clock tower with a pyramidal roof with conical turrets. The four towers at each end of the building have pyramidal roofs. The main area has a steep red tile hipped roof. Stone pendants accent the edges of the main roof's verges. The cornice is boxed with a decorated frieze. All windows have the characteristic rounded arches excluding the rectangular first floor windows. A smooth stone course acts as lintel and sill for the second story. A projecting entablature above the course supports the engaged Corinthian columns. The third floor columns are less decorative as is the entablature above this story. The windows are set back giving a massiveness to the building. The entrance is a wide segmental arch at ground level.

The interior is enhanced by marble wainscoting and plasters. The floors are Venetian Mosaic. The walls are stone and the floors and ceilings are what is known as hollow file, flat arch construction. The 3rd floor contains two large stained glass windows. One is believed to be the largest stained glass rendering of the Seal of Indiana to be found in the state. Much of the original quartered oak furniture and light fixtures are still intact.

From the 196 foot tower which can be seen for miles down to the small stone finials, the Rush County Courthouse is an exquisite well maintained example of one of the first strides towards modern architecture. It also remains a vital part of the governmental proceeding of Rush County.

# 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1896      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1896, the Rush County Courthouse stands today as a unique example of 19th Century courthouse construction and architecture. The building itself is *a of* monumental proportions. Its size dominates the entire community and can be seen from miles around. Constructed for approximately \$125,000, it would be impossible to duplicate today.

The hand carved stonework on the exterior, plus the hand carved woodwork inside represent skills that have nearly become a lost art. Also of significance are the two large stained glass windows that are located on the third floor. It is believed that one of the windows presents the largest rendering of the state seal in existence.

It is significant to note that over the years the building has undergone little alteration from its original appearance. Even at this writing, contracts are being signed to restore the exterior of the building and replace the tile roof. Interestingly enough, the County Commissioners located the same firm that supplied the original tiles in 1896.

This courthouse, by serving as the seat of County government, has touched the lives of every citizen of Rush County.

It has, by virtue of its monumental design, careful maintenance and central location become the central landmark in Rushville.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Promoter," published May 1899, Johnson & Campbell Editors, Rushville Public Library.  
Rushville Republican, March 5, 1896 issue; Rushville Republican, March 10, 1896 issue;  
Rushville Graphic, March 6, 1896 issue; "Historic Landmarks and Happenings", 1972, Rush Co.  
Chamber of Commerce brochure; "Rush County, Indiana Tourism Brochure", 1974, Rush County  
Chamber of Commerce; "Rush County Sesquicentennial Edition History, 1822-1972", 1972 Rush-  
ville Public Library.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 633580 4385700  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C         

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul W. Barada

ORGANIZATION

Rush County Chamber of Commerce

DATE

7/10/75

STREET & NUMBER

Rush County Courthouse - Third Floor

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Rushville

STATE

Indiana

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

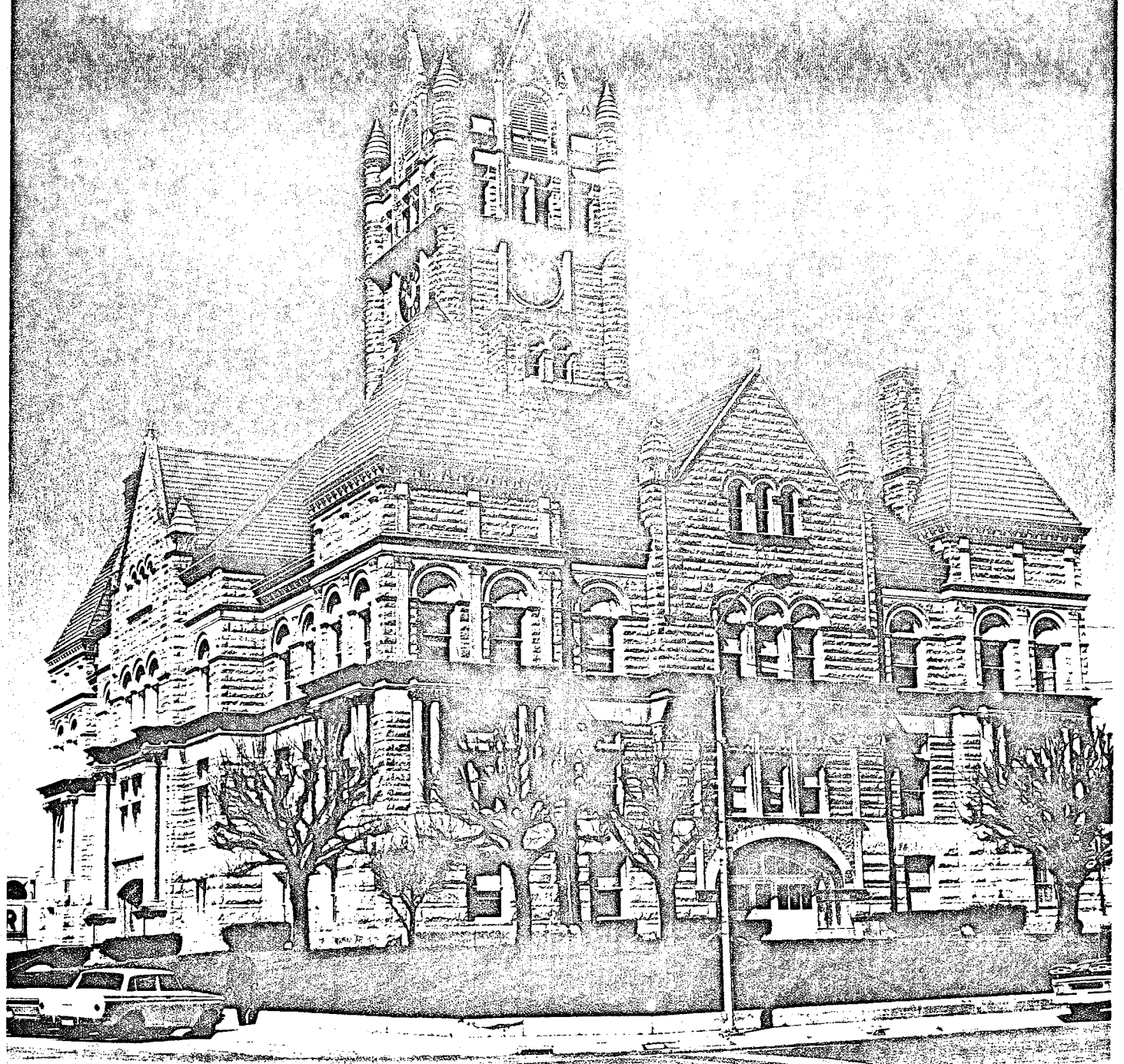
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER







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AND/OR COMMON Rush County Courthouse

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Rushville VICINITY OF COUNTY Rush STATE Indiana

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

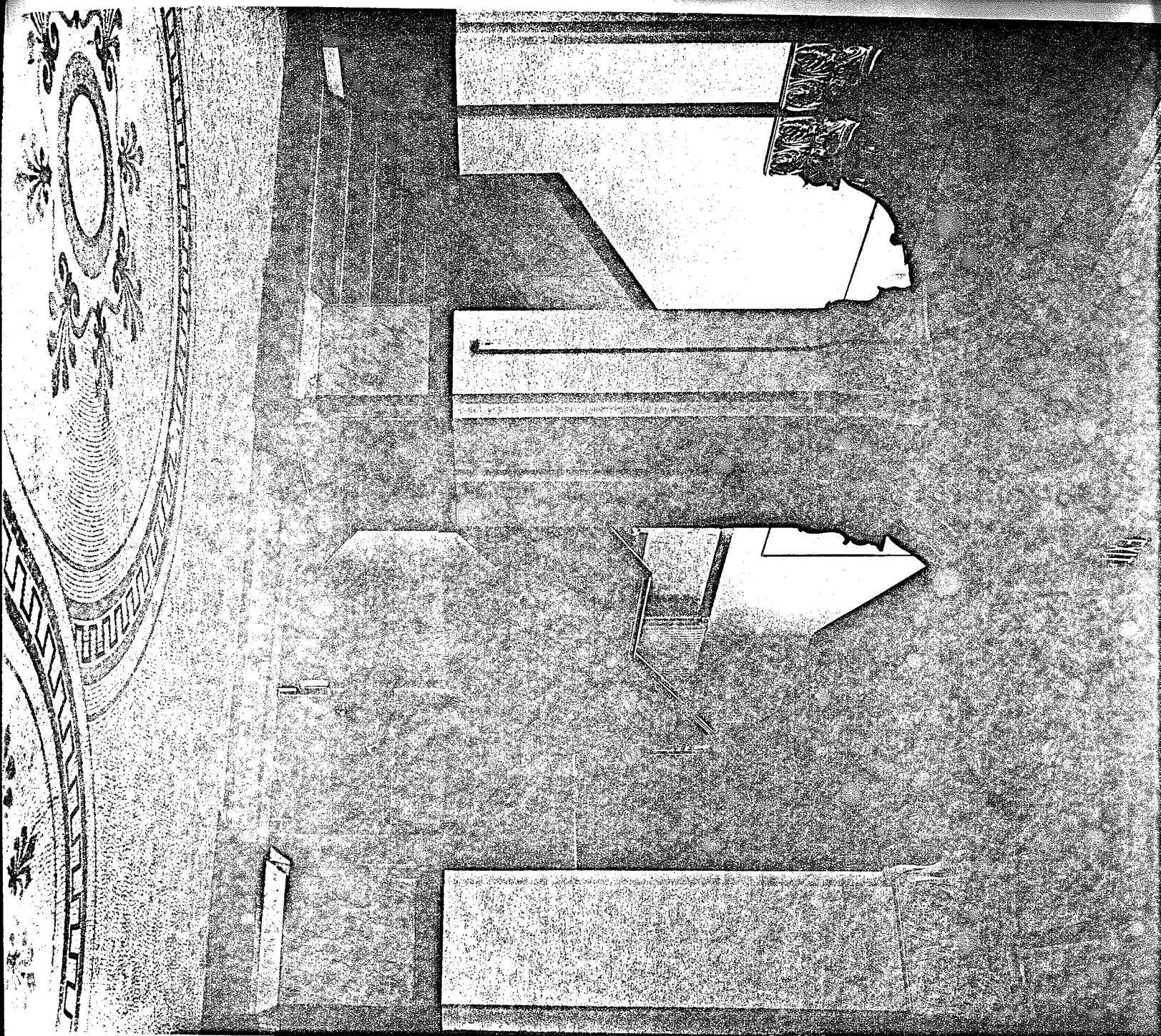
PHOTO CREDIT "Photography by Green" DATE OF PHOTO June, 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT "Photography by Green", Rushville, IN

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET  
Second floor, south side, looking east

PHOTO NO. 2



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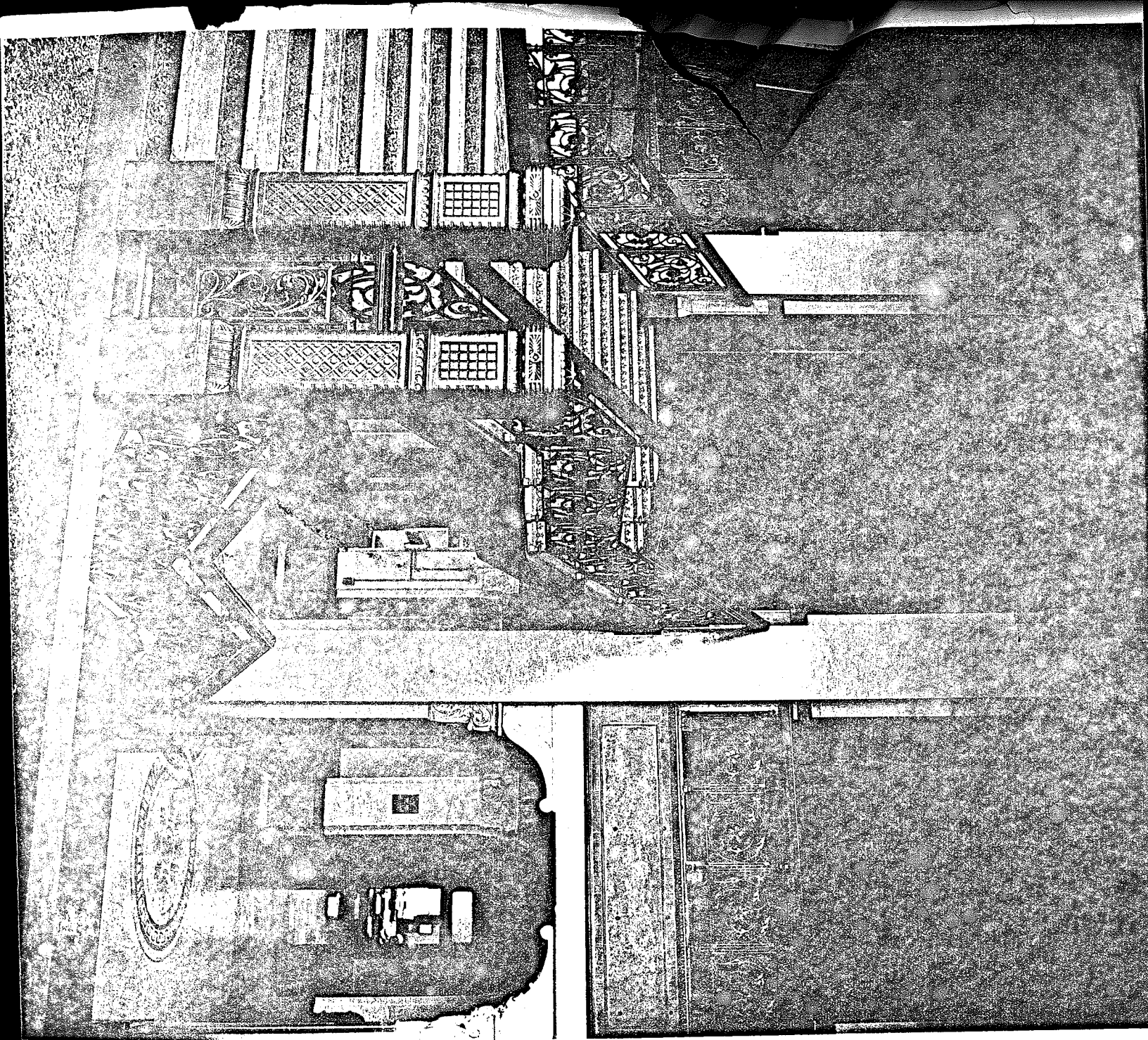
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**4 IDENTIFICATION**

PHOTO NO. 1



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PHOTO NO. 4